THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country during the year 2004-05 was 96.59 Kg (based on 2001-02 Gross Cropped area data).

(b) The low consumption of fertilizers in the country is primarily due to less area under irrigation, which is nearly two-third of the net cultivable area of the country and the consumption is only about 25 kg. per hectare against the National average of 96.59 kg per hectare.

(c) For increasing productivity, Government is advocating Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which envisage soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic fertilizers like farm yard manure, compost, green manure, vermi compost and bio-fertilizers.

(d) the farming practices promoted include *inter alia* zero tillage, raised bed planting, surface seeding, split application of fertilizers, integrated water and nutrient management including fertigation and integrated pest management.

Senior Official on Deep-Sea Tuna Boats

3644. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared proposals to post one senior official on every deep-sea tuna boat operating in our waters in the EEZ;

(b) the purpose of this new rule being considered by Government;

(c) whether Government want to give training and experience to senior officials involved in policy formulation;

(d) the details of such hands-on-training being proposed;

(e) the minimum rank of officials who will go on board for such mandatory training on tuna boats to experience for themselves with the realities of fishing and how to make policy practical; and

(f) the schedule for such activity in the next two months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Questions do not arise.

Use of Pesticides and Insecticides in Farming

3645. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pesticides and other insecticides are freely used in vegetable farming;

(b) whether human beings and animals consuming such vegetables face grave health hazards;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to eliminate use of pesticides in vegetable farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Pesticides are being used on need basis by farmers in vegetable farming. No grave health hazards to human beings and animals have been reported on account of this usage.

(d) To reduce the use of chemical pesticides for plant protection, Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme. Under the ambit of IPM programme, the Government of India has established 31 Central IPM Centres across the country to, *inter-alia,* impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field School (FFSs.) Government has, so far organized 9111 Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) and 2,75,056 farmers in IPM techniques. IPM package of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture/ICAR Institutions/State Agriculture Universities which have been circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on *www.dacent.nic.in/ppin* for use by extension functionaries and farmers.